THE HUMBLE PETITION AND REMONSTRANCE OF *RICHRD WYLDE*, Merchant and Adventurer in the *East-India* Trade,

Laying open the many wilfull Neglects, Ill-manged Actions and Improvident Courses, the Governors and Committees of the *East-India* Company, have heretofore, and still do practice in all their way of Trade to the *East-Indies*, to the exceeding great prejudice of the Adventurer and Nation in generall.

TOGETHER WITH

A Narrative of the principall Wrongs and Injuries the Dutch have barbarously perpetrated upon the Persons, Ships and Goods of the Company in *Amboyna*, and other parts of *INDIA*;

AS ALSO

The manner of Trade the *Potugals* heretofore, and now the *Dutch* have, and doe practise, to their exceeding great increase of Stock which our Company would never be perswaded to follow, in so full and ample manner as they ought to have done.

Printed in the yeare 1654

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO HIS HIGHNESSE, *OLIVER*, Lord Protector of the Common-wealth of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereto belonging.

The humble Petition of RICHARD WYLDE Merchant.

Humbly ſheweth,

THat whereas the Trade of the East-Indies was begun now 54. yeares paſt, and hath been continued ever ſince by a Company, and managed by Merchants, and other Citizens of London, for ſome yeares by Voyages, which diſcovering every day new Trades, proving profitable, both to the Adventurers, and Nation in generall, gave encouragement to all degrees of People, to ſubſcribe a large Joynt Stock of above 1500 thouſand pounds, which for ſome yeares proſpered, untill after diſcovery and ſetting a factory in Surrat, the trade of Silk of Perſia came known to us, and proved of very great conſequence, as to the expence of much broad cloath and other Manufactures of England, as alſo of many other of India, (whereof the Portingalls, had then the whole trade to

themſelves) which our Turkey Merchants *envying more eſpecially this of the ſilke of* Perſia, *as fearing, that if the trade of* India *did thrive, and grow rich, it would bring all, or the greater part of the Silk of* Perſia, *by way of* India, *became therefore adventurers in the ſame ſtock: And the better to ſtrengthen their party, and get the managing of the whole action unto themſelves by electing Aldermen, and other rich* Merchants *Governours, Deputies, and committees of their own ſociety, they carried all things to their own minds, even to the raining of four joynt ſtocks and as many, or more voyages by their wilfull neglects, improvident courſes, and ill managed actions, As your Highneſs will perceive by the following Remonſtrance, wherein I have not only repreſented the ſaid Companies errors, but alſo ſhewed your Highneſs how thoſe might have bin, & yet may be (if rightly managed) made moſt rich, and profitable trades to this Nation, adding thereunto ſome of the moſt notorious wrongs, and injuries, the Dutch have perpetrated upon the perſons, ſhips and goods of our people in* India, *to the loſſe of ſome Millions of pounds for many yeares paſt, and for ever hereafter, if your Highneſſe does not take the ſame into moſt ſerious conſideration, and make it a State Action, the beſt way of recovering from the Dutch, all, or at leaſt one third part of the* Mollucca *Iſlands, as our juſt due, or at leaſt the third part of the Spices thereon, according to the Contract made in* 1619. *with ſatisfaction for their long detention of the ſaid Spices from our Company; which Compoſition, if ſtrongly preſt, (as it deſerves) may be ſuch as may give reaſonable ſatisfaction to the Company, and a large proportion of Stock to proſecute all thoſe rich Trades of* India, Perſia, Arabia, Mollucca Iſlands, Manillios, China, and Japon, *to the great increaſe of Treaſure to your Highneſſe's Eachequer, and Stock of the Nation, or by laying it open and free for every ſub-*

ject

ject of England, &c. *that hath a minde to trade into ... parts, being regulated by Agents and Conſulls, as your Highneſſe ſhall pleaſe to appoint in every principall Port, as are the* Turkie *and* Muſcovia *Merchants, that ſo every man may be Maſter of his own Goods, both abroad and at home, and diſpoſe of them at his owne pleaſure; and not to be tyed to joynt Stocks, as hitherto, which as they are the worſt of Monopolies, ſo are they little better than Cheats to the Adventurers and Nation, whereof this is the greateſt as will appeare by the following Diſcourſe.*

Your Pet therefore doth (in the behalf of the whole Nation) moſt humbly intreat your Highneſſe to take the ſame into your grave & wiſe Conſideration, That if upon due examination, the Trade be found profitable to the Nation, by making it a State Action, or laying it open and free for one ſeven yeares experience, it may be ſupported in a full and plentifull way of trade; if otherwiſe it prove not ſuch, it may be ſuppreſſed and quite given over.

SIR,

AS the trade of *India*, in former times, when we had Wars with the *Portugals*, did require a greater number of Shipping, then now that we have peace with them; so did those many, and great Shipping, require a farre larger stock to maintaine their great charge and expence; who of necessity were forced to spend two, if not three years in that Countrey, which could not well be done, but by sufficient Stock, to be sent out upon them for trade between Port and Port, in *India* it selfe: whereunto the Court of Committees of our *East India* Company, would never be perswaded, nor yet to follow the same in so full and ample manner, as might be able to beare so great a charge; Notwithstanding the many and earnest advices and solicitations of their Servants, and Factors, both from *Surrat*, *Bantam*, *Persia*, *Musulapatan*, and *Macassar*, from whence all the best commodities for Trade were to be provided, and which did yeild at least 2. 3. some 4. for one, within the compasse of one Monsoon or sixe Months time, as by their owne Accompts, and Letters, (if duly examined) will plainly appear.

Factors Solicitations for increase of Stock, for Trade from Port to Port, not relished.

Now for as much as I have not the accompts of what passed in *Surrat* before, and since my being there, nor yet have seen those at *Bantam*; I cannot, nor will not, deliver any thing as from my owne experience, but shall referre them to their own Accompts and Letters from those parts, which will sufficiently prove,

Abstract of 6 years disbursements to *India*, what Stock sent out, and what promised for the future.

prove, what I have asserted. Yet for the sixe yeares, and an half, I was in *Surrat*, I shall deliver a true abstract of Stock yearly sent thither, every yeares charges and expences, together with every years returnes from *Surrat*, whereby your Highnesse will plainly see, what wilfull and improvident courses, those grave and wise men, that governed at the Helme of that action, did steer, to the great losse and hinderance of the Generall Adventurers, (though to their owne private ends, enough advantageous) in the interim, not letting to make great shewes of reall intentions to follow that Trade, in a more full and ample manner than formerly; as by an Order and Command by their Letters, of the 16. of *March*, 1624. to provide Goods in *Surrat*, to the value of 141447 l. 10 s. 00 d. for yearely returnes for *England* onely; which with charges there, would have cost at least 160000 l. starling, the particulars whereof, I forbear to insert here, to avoide your Highnesse trouble, as not materiall unto the worke in hand.

To performe all which, they sent out the same yeare, but 360001. in Goods and Monies, earnestly requiring by their said Letters, that all the said goods, might be provided every yeare for Annuall returnes for *England*, and which was performed most yeares at high Interest, of 13. and 14. *per cent.* whereof they had notice every yeare, both by Letters and Accompts, yet did they not send out sufficient Stock, to pay that great devouring debt, but let it continue 11. or 12. yeares unpaid, to the great hinderance of the Generall Adventurers, ignorant of their wilfull intentions, as to the ruine of that second, and great joynt Stock, by their ill-managing thereof; which, that it may most clearly appear to your Highnesse, I will give you the abstract of all disbursements in *India*, what the Company sent out every yeare, as also what returnes they had thence, for the sixe yeares I was in *India*.

In Aprill 1624.

			Sh.	Tun.
The Company ſent out upon foure Ships and two Pinnaces, in Goods and Moneys, 62000 *l. as appeares by that yeares account*		*l.* 62000	*James*	1000
			Ionah	800
			Star	400
Whereof was ſent to Perſia, *in Money and Goods*	6215		*Eagle*	300
And to Mocha *in in the* Red Sea, *in Goods*	725		*Spie*	40
And to Bantam *in Goods for* Macaſſer, *&c.*	7768		*Scout*	30
And to Muſſapatan *by Exchange*	126			2570
And to Acheen, *and thence to* Bantam	5359			
And for England *upon the* Star, *beſides what was ſent upon the* William *and* Bleſſing *the ſame yeare, on former account*	14050			
Diſburſt for Cuſtomes in and out in Surrat	7786			
By Charge Merchandiſe in all ther Factories	5097			
By Ships expences for Proviſions	5985			
By Houſe-expences, and Houſe-rent in all the Factories	2945			
By Factors Wages on the Shore	2230			
The whole Diſburſments in *Surrat* this year is	58296.	58296		
And there remained for Inveſtments for *England* the next year, but		3703		

Yet did the Preſident and Counſell ſend home upon the *James* and *Jonah*, the next yeare, Goods to the value of 80000 *l.* in *India*, though at high Intereſt, whereby may be obſerved the improvident way of Trade the Managers of that Action did run here at home, notwithſtanding the ſecond and great Joynt Stock of ſixteene hundred thouſand pound then in being.

1625.

In April 1625.

James & *Jonah* sent home with Goods, which cost in *India* above 80000 l. *sterl.*

The Company sent out upon four Ships in Goods and Moneys 36000 *l. but by accident there came to* Surrat *that yeare in Money and Goods from* England, *but* — *l.* 10500

And from Mocha *in the* Red Sea *upon the Ship* Ann's *account* — 2613

From Bantam *in Goods and Ryalls of Eight* — 27448

Received in all for this yeares Invest ments in Goods for England — 40561

Ships	Tuns
Palsgrave	800
Dolphin	600
Lyon	400
Hawkon	250
	2050.

Whereof was sent to Bantam *in Goods and Money* — 1792

And to Persia *in Goods and Money* — 3445

Disburst in Surrat, &c. *for Customes in and out* — 5510

In Charge Merchandise in all the Factories — 7998

In Ships expences for Provisions — 6318

In House expences 2500 *l. and Factors wages* 1332 *l in all, is* — 3832

In House-rent, and Kishme *Castle* 401 *l. in Presents* 633 *l. in all* — 1034

Disburst in *Surrat* this yeare — 29929. 29929

And there remained for Investments for next yeare for *England* — 10632

In April 1626.

The Company sent out upon five Ships in Goods and Moneys from England — 90710

Sh.	Tu.
William	800
Blessing	800
Discovery	600
Maurice	500
Christoph.	400
	3150.

And by the Palsgrave *and* Dolphin, *who were beaten from their Port the last yeare by the* Portugals, *in Goods and Money, as appeares* — 25486

In all for this years Investments — 116196

Summe carried over to the outward Marg. — 116196

where-

Summe brought over from the outward Margent	116196.
Whereof was ſent to Bantam *and* Muſlapatan *in*	*l.*
Goods	19413
And to Perſia *in Goods and Moneys*	39265
Diſburſt in Surrat for Cuſtomes in and out	5817
In Charge Merchandiſe in ſundry Factories	4152
By Factors wages on Shore	1350
By Houſe-rent in all their Factories	265
By Ships expences for Proviſions	4876
By Preſents in all their Factories	698
By Houſe expences in all their Factories	2256
Summes disburſt in *Surrat* is	78092.78092
And there remained for inveſtments for the next year	381 04

This yeare 1626. the *Dolphin* was promiſed to be ſent home, there being at leaſt 3600. Bales of Goods ready houſed in *Surrat* and *Raneale*, beſides Pepper, notwithſtanding all which, there was ſent home no Ship that yeare, to the great hinderance and diſheartening of the Generall Adventurers, as appeares by the Companies Letters of the 12. of *March* 1627. wherein they did heavily complaine for want of Returnes that yeare, by which it may be probably conjectured, there had ſome private order been given from ſome particular Committees, not to ſend any *Indicoe* home that yeare, elſe could it not poſſible be, that having eight great Ships in Ports, idle, and without imployment, and ſo many Goods in a readineſſe, which loſt one whole yeares returne, to the no ſmall prejudice of the *Adventurers*, there ſhould be committed ſo great an overſight, and after ſo great and juſt complaints, not to be queſtioned for it at coming home, when my ſelfe, who ſucceeded him, upon receipt

No ſhip ſent home this year, though fairely promiſed. And Goods enough in a readineſs for 2. Ships lading, and 8. Ships in Port.

Sh.	Tun.
Pallgrave	800
William	800
Bleſſing	800
Dolphin	600
Diſcovery	600
Maurice	500
Briſtoll.	450
Faulcon	250
	4800.

receipt of thoſe complaining Letters, endeavouring to ſalve up that errour, and reincourage the Adventurers, did engage my ſelfe at Intereſt, for upwards of 120 thouſand pounds, and ſent and brought them home upon eight great Ships the two following yeares, Goods which coſt in India upwards of 210 thouſand pounds, was for the ſame cauſe, and no other, ſent for home in a diſgracefull manner, as I ſhall in its due place make knowne, to the admiration and wonderment of all the generall Adventurers.

In April 1627.

Sh.	Tun.		*l.*
		The Company ſent out in ſix Ships for Surrat *in Money and Goods*	64700
Mary	1000.		
Hart	600	*And from* Bantam *was ſent in Goods*	6541
Star	400		
Hopewell	250	In all	71241
Refuge	150	*Whereof was ſent to* Perſia *in Goods and Money*	4079
Scout	30	*And to* Bantam *in Goods*	11889
		And to Mocha *in the* Red Sea, *in Goods*	6094
	2430.	*Diſburſt in* Surrat *for Cuſtomes in and out*	4763
		By Ships expences for Proviſions	5626
		By Houſe expences in all the Factories	3916
		By Houſe rent in all the Factories	360
		By Charge Merchandiſe in all the Factories	10352
		By Factors wages on the Shore	1350
		By Preſents in all the Factories	2964
		Diſburſed in all	51391. 51391
		And there remained for Inveſtments for the next yeare	19850

January 1627.

Sh.	Tun.		
Palſgrave	800	*And the ſame yeare was ſent home upon three Ships, Goods which coſt*	90569
Dolphin	600	*And in* April *following, upon the Ship* William, *Goods which coſt*	71816
Diſcovery	600		
William	800	Sent home this yeare	162385
	2800		

In

In April 1628.

The Company ſent out two Ships to Surrat *in Goods and Moneys*		*l.* 61345		
And from Bantam *was ſent in Goods*		7378		
In all		68723	Sh.	Tun.
Whereof was ſent for Perſia *in Goods and Moneys*	6400		*Ione*	800
And to Mocha, *in the* Red Sea, *in Goods*	2800		*Expedition*	350
Diſburſt in Surrat *for Coſtomes in and out*	6676			1150.
By Ships expences for Proviſions	3547			
By Houſe expences in all the Factories	1973			
By Charge Merchandiſe in all the Factories	3375			
By Factors Wages on the Shore	1225			
By Houſe-rent in all the Factories	165			
By Preſents in all the Factories to the Governors	910			
Summe laid out	27071.	27071		
And remained for Imployment for the next year		41652		

The ſame yeare in January 1628. *on three Ships, and in* April *following, upon other three Ships, was ſent for* England *Goods for* 130000

Sh.	T.
Exchange	800
Bleſſing	800
Sia	400
Hart	600
Expedition	350
Hopewell	250
	3200

April 1629.

The Company ſent out upon the Charles, *in Goods and Moneys*		*l.* 61000		
Diſburſt in Surrat *in Cuſtomes, &c. in and out*	5400			
By Ships expences for Proviſions	2500			
By Houſe expences in all the Factories	2000			
By Charge Merchandiſe in all the Factories	4500		Sh.	Tun.
By Factors Wages on the Shore	1250		*Charles*	1000
By Houſe-rent in all the Factories	150			
By Preſents to the Governors and Merchants	900			
Summe diſburſed		16700		
And there remain'd for Imployments the next yeare		44300		

And

And the same yeare was brought for *England*, upon the Ships *Charles and Jonah*, Goods, which cost in *India* upwards of fourscore thousand pounds, in conclusion of the second and great joynt Stock, by all which may be observed, that the greatest part of Returnes sent home, was upon high interest in *India*, and which lay many yeares unpaid, to the exceeding prejudice of the Adventurers.

Sh.	Tun.
rles	1000
ah	800
	1800

Whereas, had they sent out 200000 l. every yeare in quick stock, as they have been often advised, and earnestly intreated by their Factors in *India*, that great interest had been saved, and the charge had increased nothing more than in Customes, and Charge Merchandise; but the profit, both abroad and at home would have been such, as would have born all losses, which have happened and befalne that action, by the improvident sending home their Ships late in the yeare, and an overplus of faire gaine to have incouraged the generall Adventurers in the pursuance of that brave and rich Trade, if rightly managed.

Being now falne upon the unhappy losses this trade hath sustained, it will not be out of season, to let you know how improvidently they ordered the returne of their Ships from *India* late in the yeare, occasioned chiefly for want of stock in the Country, to provide Goods in the best season, that so their Ships might come thence in *December* at farthest, so would they bring a Somer season all the way, and at home also; whereas coming thence in *April*, as for the most part they have done heretofore, they bring with them a Winter season, about the *Cape of good Hope* and all the way, & upon our own Coast also, which hath occasioned the greatest losses by Sea, as wofull experience hath taught the generall Adventurers: And truly, if your Highnesse shall rightly observe, the constant course of the Dutch, in sending away their Ships about the beginning of *December*, together with the long experience of their Ships safe and seasonable arivall in *Holland*, and the Companies many losses, and hazardous adventures, they have run upon those Ships, which have come thence so late in the yeare; you cannot but conclude, those that managed that action, to have been, and still are, most wilfully improvident in

The late coming of our ships out of *India* cause of so many losses.

in their way of trade, as if they did not desire its prosperity and welfare: And no lesse careless were they in the overcharge of shipping, and unreasonable burthen of unnecessary servants at home; notwithstanding the many and often complaints of the general Adventurers, even of late, when we had not in stock above a hundred four thousand pounds; our charge was as much here at home, and much more abroad, than when we had that great stock of 1600 thousand pounds, yet could they not prevaile with that Court to lessen this heavy burthen of unnecessary charge.

Unnecessary charge of Servants, abroad and at home, a very great hinderance to our small stock.

In *Anno* 2627.

We had on our hands in *Surrat* onely, twelve great Ships, with little or no stock wherewith to imploy them, as may appeare by the foregoing account, and their owne Letters of the 12 of March 1627. when the same year we sent to *Bantam* Goods for 11889 l. which was scarce 100 tunnes of tunnage, upon eight of the greatest Ships, six whereof went from *Bantam* on a Wildgoose Chase about the Island of S. *Laurence*, in search of the Portugalls Carrackes, but never looked out for them, nor came neare the place of their wonted randevouze.

Twelve great ships in *Surrat* with little or no stock to imploy them.

All which Ships, with those sent out the yeare following, notwithstanding our small means then in the country (and I left by my Predecessor, forty six thousand pounds in debt at interest) were laden for *England* and *Bantam*, and thence home, with large Cargazones, as by the foregoing account and relation following; which, that your Highnesse may the better understand, I will give you some particular Clauses of the Companies owne Letter of the 12 of *March* 1627. alluding to the not sending home of the *Dolphin*, according to promise, and their own acknowlegement of the great number of ships we had upon our hands, and little stock wherewith to lade them home.

The Clause of the Companies Letters
12 *March* 1627.

The want of our expected returnes from you this yeare, hath much disheartened our Adventurers, and disinabled us from sending you such supplies, as we desired to doe, for which omission

Blame for not sending home returnes yearly, the life of trade.

ſion of yours ſo directly againſt your writing to us in your Letter, and ſo contrary to our continuall advice to you, we cannot chuſe but blame you much, ſeeing our advice in every of our Letters, for many yeares together, was that you would not faile to ſend us home returnes yearly, in ſuch ſeaſon as you could; for the ſaid Returns are the life of Trade, both in regard of heart and meanes; wherefore we muſt needes ſay againe, that you did not well in the omiſſion thereof, for you have thereby much diſappointed our expectations, and ſeeme very ſlightly to have regarded our advice.

Another.

The generall Adventurers diſheartened for want of returnes.

By reaſon of the great number of Ships, which we have there upon our exceeding great charge, as you well know, ten great Ships, and two Pinnaces, if Captain *Hall* s Fleet be ſafely there (as we hope they are) we have therefore thought good to furniſh and ſend you but two ſhips for this voyage, namely, the *Jonah* of 800. tunnes, and the *Expedition* of 350. and howſoever, as we ſaid before, the Adventurers are much diſheartened for lack of returnes from you this yeare; yet have we, with much difficulty, prevailed with them for a concluſion of this ſecond joynt Stock, and beſt advancement of the ſame, to ſend you a reaſonable ſupply of Money and Goods, in theſe our two Ships, whereby you may be the better provided, not only to lade home themſelves, but all the reſt of our Ships there alſo, for whom you have not ſufficient ſtock there already, knowing that thoſe you ſhall not lade home, will in one yeare eat out more than their own worth, in mens wages & victuals only beſides the wearing out of themſelves, their furniture, ſtores and proviſions (as coſtly experience hath taught us) which duly recommended, you will acknowledge what damage we ſuſtain, by keeping our ſhips there unreturned. wherefore we pray you, at any hand, to relade them all away with all expedition, that ſo we may have the whole returns of this our ſecond joynt Stock from thence, upon its own adventure, without any lag or remaine (if poſſible) or as few as may be to be tranſported to our next joynt ſtock, for erection whereof we have reſolved preſently after diſpatch of theſe two ſhips, to ſend forth a Book amongſt the Adventurers for a new Subſcription, which we

Expreſs command to ſend home all their Ships.

have

have hitherto deferred, untill we might ſee what concluſion the Kings Majeſty will make for us with the Dutch which is now but newly in handling, as in a former clauſe is more largely expreſſed: upon our ſaid next Accompt we ſhall God-willing enlarge our trade for *Surrat*, and furniſh it more amply than ever heretofore we have done: In the mean time, fail not to relade home all our ſhips if it be poſſible for the Adventure of this preſent ſtock.

Promiſe of enlargement of ſtock not performed nor really intended.

By the former clauſe of the ſaid Companies Letters your Highneſs may plainly ſee how much they did blame the Preſident then in being, for not ſending the ſhip *Dolphin* home that year, according to promiſe: And by the ſecond, how earneſtly they deſire ſpeedy return of all their ſhips, That the Adventurers were ſo diſheartned for want of Returns, (the life of trade) that they had with much difficulty prevailed with them to ſend out more Stock: That if their ſhips were kept out but one year longer they would eat out themſelves in Victuals, and mens Wages, with ſundry other expreſſions to this purpoſe.

Blame for not ſending home the *Dolphin* according to promiſe.

Which diſheartneth Adventurers from ſending out more ſtock.

All which I conceiving had been really meant and intended, according to the tenor of their ſaid Letters: And out of an earneſt deſire to revive that declining trade then gaſping for breath of large ſupplies; And to reincourage the Adventurers to a new and large Subſcription for another Stock did ingage my ſelf for upward of 120 thouſand pounds in *India* (as I ſaid before) at Intereſt, and in *January* 1628, ſent them home three ſhips, and in *April* following other three ſhips, with Goods to the value of 130 thouſand pounds in *India*: My Predeceſſor having the foregoing year, upon four ſhips ſent and carried home Goods to the value of 170 thouſand pounds in *India*; And upon the *Maurice*, *Mary*, *Faulcon*, and *Chriſtopher* for *Bantam*, in Goods for 35 thouſand pounds: And in *April* 1630, I followed my ſelf with Goods upon the *Charles*, and *Ionah*, which coſt in *India* at leaſt 80 thouſand pounds.

The Author ingaged for above 120 thouſand pounds at intereſt in *India*.

Notwithſtanding which he did ſend home ſix ſhips with goods coſt 130 thouſand lib. in one year.

His predeceſſor having ſent home 170 thouſand lib. upon four ſhips the year before.

Charls 1000 l.
Ionah 800
18004 l.

All their ſhips being thus returned in ſafety, and fully laden with rich Goods with which the Adventurers were again encouraged, above 600 thouſand pounds clear gained little

 leſſe

Above 600 thousand li. gained 100 thousand li. saved in shipping and 2000 mens lives preserved.

lesse than 100 thousand pounds saved in shipping, the lives of near 2000 land and seamen preserved, which else had perished. And the action raised from 45 & 50, to 112 ½ *per cent.* according to their own valuation: I did expect not onely thankfull acknowledgment from the Court of Committees, as I had from the generall Adventurers, but even a large Gratuity for this my good service: but so farre were those former from giving me any, either thanks, or reward, that presently upon the Arrival of those six ships, sent them from *Surrat*, in one year, they sent out another to supply my place, calling for me home, under colour of a Private Trader onely, kept 500 li. from me for wages, 300 li. due to me by their Pursers books, and 12 hundred and 50 pounds paid into the third joint Stock, above ten years denied me allowance for supplying the prime Places of charge and command in *India*, to maintain the credit and reputation thereof, cost me at leaft 100 li. a year extraordinary for the four first years when I was Accomptant; and 250 li. a year for three years from the time I was chosen President, when as those that supplied the place of Accomptant both before and since my time had 200 li. a year, and the place of President 500 li. a year; and in the close of all, after two years attendance, without laying to my charge any dishoneft action, They shamed not in a most injust and illegal way, themselves being both Judges and Parties in their own cause, to assume such arbitrary power as to lay a fine of 2500 li. upon me, which I refusing to pay, and pressing hard for a Reward for my good services done the generality of Adventurers; some of the great Committees let not to tell me divers times, in a publick and full Court of Committees (what others had often done in private) That I had done them better service if I had sunk their ships in the Seas, or fired them in *India*, than I did by sending and bringing them home so richly laden, wherein had those dishoneft Managers of that action suffered alone by those many ships and goods that have been sunk in the seas and fired in *India*, both before and since (and not fallen upon the general Adventurers) it had been but a just recompense for their ingratitude both to God and man.

A fine of 2500 li. laid on me for doing too much good service.

For which they told me I had done them better service if I sunk their ships in the sea, or fired them in *India*.

Here

Here is a myſtery beyond ordinary apprehenſion or common reaſon, not to be diſcerned but by thoſe that have narrowly ſearched into their unjuſt waies, which that your Highneſſe may the better underſtand I ſhall humbly deſire your Highneſſe to look back unto the end of *Anno* 1628, and beginning of 1629, when they had a very great parcel of Indico come home upon the *Palſgrave*, *Dolphin*, *Diſcovery*, and *William*, of value above 200 thouſand pounds; a parcel too big for any one, or a few to meddle with, yet muſt not be ſold but in groſſe and altogether; upon this great parcell (as I have been informed, and that moſt truly) did ſome particular Grandees, rich Committees, Aldermen, &c. caſt an eye of private intereſt, and the better to work their own ends, and diſcourage other men from medling therewith, they did cunningly ſell off ſome ſmall parcels of Indico formerly bought at under-rates, by this means beating down the price and delaying to put the other to ſale for almoſt a whole year, untill themſelves were provided of monies and a ſeaſon fitting their own diſhoneſt intentions, which could not be untill they were aſſured the ſhips that went that year for *India* were gone clear from off our coaſt, having in their Letters by thoſe ſhips given order unto their Preſident and Councel in *Surratt* to buy no more Indico except at 8, or 9 Rupies the Maund; a price not known in our time, nor yet many years before; which was as much as to ſay, Buy none at all; which they durſt not plainly ſay, leſt the reſt of the Court, not privie to their deceitful deſign ſhould diſcover it.

Order ſent into *India* to buy no more Indico.

The ſhips thus gone with this adviſe, which they believed would have been obſerved in *India*, (as it might have been, if timely given) they forthwith cauſed a Bill of Sale for this great parcel of Indico to be ſet upon the Pillars in the *Exchange* at Eight daies warning (which if I be not miſinformed) ought by their own orders of Court, to have been at Eight weeks, that ſo men might have had time to joyn together, agree and provide monies, or ſecurity for ſo great and vaſt ſummes as that parcel would and did amount unto.

A Court of Sales called in a moſt ſurreptitious way contrary to their own orders of Court.

The Indico sold at undervalue, at rebate for months, 40 mo: which is 33 *per cent.* and 15 *per cent.* the impost of 6 d. *per lib.* is 48 *per cent.* gains, before it goe out of the land.

This Day of Sales being come, few Buyers appeared, (but those combined to out-bid all offers) that durst adventure upon so great a parcel as that was, especially seeing a great and rich Alderman make the first offer (though low) and back'd with divers other of his kindred, friends, and Co-partners, whom they feared to displease; It was suddenly put to the Candle, (a fine Cheat, where a cunning Secretaty hath the art of Extinguishing) which was soon out; and the commodity his at a lower price than ever sold at before; And that at five, six months day of payment, upon rebate at 10 li. *per cent.* for five, eight months paying in ready money, as they did, rebating for 40 months, which is 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ *per cent.* which with 6 d. upon every pound of Indico for impost which they received back after the rate of 10 groats a pound, which is 3 s. upon every 20 s. or 15 *per cent.* more, which together makes 48 $\frac{1}{3}$. *per cent.* a present and sure gain, before the commodity went out of the River, which if sold abroad, at the same price it cost here is a fair recompense for what they lost with the generality in the under rate they bought it at.

A most notorious abuse to the Adventurers.

The dishonesty of their servants, in giving overweight to their Masters to preserve favour.

Adde hereunto the great weight and choice of the best of the Commodity given them by their own Servants: To preserve their favour, some of whom also shared with them in their good bargains; which great wrong and injury to the generall Adventurers was beyond all honest and faithfull dealing, whereunto both Masters and Servants are, or ought to be every year by oath obliged; The like abuse is too familiary practised in the sale of all other Commodities, themselves being both Buyers and Sellers of the same, to the exceeding great prejudice of the Adventurers, who have intrusted them with the managing of their businesse in hopes of fair and just dealing.

The same abuse in another commodities.

But to come more neer to the mysterie it self, which is, why the general Adventurers, should so much applaud my good service done for them by saving them 100 thousand pounds in shipping by preserving at least 2000 land and seamans lives, which must have perished with their ships if sunk in the sea, or fired in *India*, by gaining them above 600 thousand pounds by the Goods, so sent, and brought home; all which

which raiſed the Action to 11½. *per cent.* as I ſaid before. And for the very ſame cauſe, and no other, that Court of Committees ſhould wiſh all thoſe Ships ſunk in the Sea, or fired in *India*, to the utter ruine of that Trade, which they have endeavoured, and now brought almoſt to their deſired ends, as I ſhall more fully diſcover, when I come to diſcourſe of the Trade for the ſilke of *Perſia*.

That which now troubled them was, firſt, the fruſtrating of their owne expected gaines, which they had made to themſelves, in hopes of at leaſt two yeares time, for the ſale of the ſaid Indicoe, at their owne priſes, having preſently raiſed it to 50l. *per cen.* Profit, when unexpectedly, here arrived the ſame Summer ſixe Ships, with a ſecond great parcell of Indicoe which I had bought, and provided, before their ſaid forbidding Letters came to my hands, and my ſelfe following the next year, with a third great parcell brought downe the piece againe, to almoſt what they had bought theirs at, which was the cauſe he and they loſt of their hoped for gains, and moved ſuch inhumanities to fall from them, faire and true expreſſions of their evil affection to thoſe ſo rich Trades of *India*, &c.

The arrivall of 8. Ships in two years, with great ſtore of Indico, loſt their hoped for gaine.

Which cauſed ſuch Inhumanities fall from them, as to diſcover their evil intentions.

A ſecond was, a croſſing their deſigne of buying all the Adventures of the Nobility, Gentry, Widdowes and Orphants, as they had bought of many, at halfe their value, as will plainly appeare by their owne accompts; propoſing amongſt themſelves, to ingroſſe all Adventures, to the end, to make the whole Trade their own, and gaine that compoſition, expected from the *Dutch*, wholly to themſelves, an intention, as foule, as falſe, to the betrayed truſt of the Adventurers.

And croſſing their baſe deſigne of buying of Adventures, a trick now againe in practice.

And it will be no hard matter to prove that ſome of the preſent Grandees, and ruling Gommittees, who having lately ingroſſed all the Pepper of two yeares returnes, at baſe and low prizes, did ſo order the buſineſſe in *India*, that no more Pepper ſhould be ſent home the following yeare, as formerly they did upon the like occaſions, forbid any more *Indico* to be bought, not regarding the great loſſe the generall Adventurers did ſuſtaine by keeping a great Ships

Order for no more Pepper to be ſent home, as was formerly given for Indico, in prejudice of the Adventurers.

ladeing of Pepper in *India*, a whole yeare, which might have been ſent home one year ſooner; which Ship, and Pepper, was in great danger, to be ſurprized by the *Dutch*, for want of timely advice given their Factors of the breach of Peace, as if in heart they deſired the Ship and Pepper might be taken by them, or periſh at Sea. But God Almighty fruſtrated their deſires, and brought in the Ship to *Plymoth* in ſafety, where ſhe lay ſome Moneths, with faire windes, rather wilfully detained by their under-hand dealing, than for want of Convoy, which muſt be laid upon the Council of States failing in their promiſed ſupply; an old trick of that Court, to fling ſcandals upon the Supreame Power, in all their generall meetings, as they did heretofore, when ever the *Dutch*'s Wrongs and Injuries were in queſtion, the Supreame Powers muſt bear the blame, when themſelves never made other than ſlight addreſſes unto them, as more willing they ſhould not be compoſed, untill their owne deſignes were perfected.

The Pepper Ships long detention in *Plimoth*, not without a myſterie if well examined.

Another heavy abuſe to the generall Adventures, was theie neglect of Preſſing the late King, and preſent Gouncil of State, for the leſſening of the over-great Impoſt laid upon Indico, Pepper, and other *India* Commodities, which becauſe in former times, when Indico was worth 5s. and 7s. 6d. a pound, and Pepper, 3s. 4d. a pound, there was laid upon Indico 6d. and Peper 2d. a pouud Impoſt, and now Indico being fallen one third part in price, and Pepper to 12d. a li. they are not able to beare it; the Generall Adventurers, at many meetings, have complained, as a neglect in the Governours, and Court of Committees, not eeally informing the Counnil of State of this over-charge; they have been made believe it is not their fault, having earneſtly importuned the Council of State to leſſen that great Impoſt on Pepper, &c. but could never prevaile, when indeed they have been ſo far from preſſing it, that they rather deſire its continuance, as to them more beneficiall, in the buying of theſe commodities. As for Example,

The Impoſt of Indicoe, and Peper of ſo great profit to the Committees, that they doe not deſire its eaſement as they ought.

Suppoſe there be in a Stock 100. thouſand pounds (as there is little more in that now in being) and that a Committee man have 1000l. Stock, Adventure therein, which is one hun-

hundred part of the whole, and there is two Millions of pounds of Pepper come home this year, which at 12d. the pound makes one hundred thousand pounds, which at 2 d. the pound impoſt is, 16666 l. 13 s. 4 d. upon the whole; the 100 part whereof, is, 166 l. 13 s. 4 d. which the ſaid Committee-man loſeth in the whole parcell with the Generall Adventurers; but this Committee-man buyeth this 100000 pounds worth of Pepper, and ſhipping it out again within 12 months, bath 2 d. for every pound of Pepper allowed him back for Impoſt, which is, 16666 l. 13 s. 4 d. ſo as here remains clear of gains, 16500 l. before the Commodity is gone out of the Land, without any advantage at all to the generall Adventurers, who may not wonder if the Court of Committees deſire not the taking off this great Impoſt, though ſenſilbe edough of their betrayed Truſt, and breach of Oath, to manage all things in an upright way, and for the Generall good.

Therefore why the Committee deſire not to have the Impoſt of Pepper taken off, is their own privote gain thereby.

16500 l.

But were all thoſe that have the managing of that Action here at home, bound, both by Oath and Bond, from being Buyers and Sellers of the Companies Commodities, neither directly for themſelves, nor indirectly by other men for them, no Aldermen, nor great rich men, would trouble themſelves to be Committee-men, as now they do; a courſe moſt injuſt and diſhoneſt, to inrich themſelves by the ruine of the Adventurers, which hath ever been, and will be ſo, untill duly reformed by the States, taking the Action into their own protection, or laying it open and free for every man, that is willing to trade into the remote parts of *India*, and be Maſters of their own Goods, both abroad and at home, to diſpoſe of them to their own beſt advantage; for Joynt Stocks do now too plainly appeare to be the worſt of Monopolies, as this hath been the moſt hurtfull that ever was to this Nation.

If the Committee-men were bound from buying and ſelling the Companies Commodities, they would never cover to be Committees.

Nor is your Highneſs and State a little abuſed by this manner of returning of Impoſt upon all *India* Goods, that are tranſported within 12 Moneths, as accuſtomed, if not done by, and for the generall advdenturers account, to which end I ſuppoſe it was granted as a thing juſt and equall with all other

other Merchants; but with this Company, the greater part (if not all) of the Commodities brought out of of *India*, are bought, and Ship out again by particular Committee-men, that, peradventure, have not above 3. or 400. l. adventure in the whole Stock; What reason is there, that that man that hath but 300. l. adventure (perhaps none at all, but as a Free-man) shall buy for 10, 20, 30, 4000 l. or more, in any Commodity, and receive back the Impost of the whole, without any benefit at all to the generall Stock, which first paid it, but so much reall loss to the State; for, suppose a Committee-man of 300 l. adventure, buyeth a parcell of Pepper worth 10000 l which he shippeth out within 12. months (according to the former evill Custom) whereby he hath 2 d. in the pound Impost returned, which comes to 1666 l. 13 s. 4 d. whereas his due is but 33 l. 6 s. 8. the Impost of 300. pounds worth of Pepper, whereby this Committee-man gains in one year, almost five times his whole adventure, and so proportionably, if he buy for 20. 30. 50. or 100. thousand pounds worth of Pepper, as some men have often bought, to the great inriching of themselves, without any advantage at all to the Company in generall, and great loss to the State for these many years past, which may be, for the future, remedied. This being one prime reason, that so many Aldermen, and great rich men, become Committe-men, and are Buyers and Sellers of their own Commodities, at their own prices, and long time, with rebate for 8. moneths for every 6. moneths a notorious abuse to the generall Adventurers, as I have said else-where, and may be worthy your Honours and States consideration, in prevention of future abuses in this kind. It is not so with the Merchant that tradeth into other parts, if he bring in a Commodity that finds not that vent for it here, as he can have else-where, shippeth out again all, or part, receives back the Impost he himself formerly paid, which is but just, but these Committee-men of the *East-India* Company receive back the Impost, not onely of what concerns their own proportion of stock, but even what the whole body of Adventurers did formerly pay, and wherein they themselves had no reall interest, an abuse worthy reformation

3 0 400 l.

Perhaps none at all, but as a Freeman.

mation for the future, as having bin ſome years 40. or 50000l. loſs, and more, to the State, as will appear upon the examination of their Accounts.

By the foregoing diſcourſe, your Highneſs may in part ſee the improvident way of trade, thoſe great and wiſe men did run, even when they had ſo large and plentifull means, as was that of the ſecond and great Joynt Stock: But when your Highneſs ſhall conſider how wilfully negligent they have been of the trade between Port and Port, in *India* it ſelf, you will, with admiration, wonder that ſuch wiſe and underſtanding Merchants, as they were, ſhould commit ſuch groſs errours; if not done on purpoſe to ruine the Action, which that your Highneſs may the better apprehend, and ſee the difference between the immediate trade from *England* to *Surratt*, and *Muſlapatan*, and thence back again for *England*, and that of one or two years imployment between *Surratt*, or *Muſlapatan*, and the Southern parts, as to *Bantham*, *Acheen*, *Macaſſar*, &c. and thence back again to *Surrat*, or *Muſlapatan*, and ſo for *England*.

The improvident way of trade which our Grandees have practiſed, appears in neglect of trade from Port to Port, in India it ſelf.

Suppoſe there be twenty thouſand pound in Rialls of Eight, and Goods ſent to *Surrat*, or *Muſlapatan*, which might yeild there five or ſix thouſand pounds profit, allowing 2000 l. to defray charges there, and there remains 23000 l. to be inveſted in Indico and Callicoes, &c. which ſent directly for *England*, might, according to accuſtomed computation, have yeilded here three for one, or 69 thouſand pounds, from which, allow 15 thouſand pounds for fraight, aſſurance, forbearance of their money, cuſtomes, and other charges, and there remains 34 thouſand pounds clearly gained; a faire recompence, if no unhappy loſs befall it: but if that 23000 l. in *Surrat*, had been inveſted in Commodities, fitting *Macaſſar*, *Acheen*, *Janiby*, and *Bantham*, would have yeilded two for one, at leaſt, clear of all charges, or 46 thouſand pounds; which again re-inveſted in Cloves, Maces, Nutmegs, Lignum Allois, Turtle ſhells, Camphir, Benjamin, China roots, Pepper, and other Druggs, would have made in *Surrat* and *Perſia*, at leaſt two for one more, or 92000 l. from which allow 20000 l. for cuſtomes, &c. charges, and there had remained 72000 l.

To the ſending 20000l. to *Surrat*, there to be inveſted in Goods for *England*, may yeild here 23000 l.

But inveſted in Goods for the Southwards, and then re-inveſted in Goods for *Surrat* again, and then for *Engl.* would have made here 216000 l.

72000 l. to be invested in Indico, Callicoes, &c. for *England*, which at three for one, is here 216000 l. a large Recompence for one or two years stay longer in *India*; all which, as a reall truth, will appear by their own Accounts, and the testimony of their Servants, that have been in those imployments. This was the manner of trade used by the Portugalls and Dutch, to their exceeding great profit, as appeared to all the world; yet would our Court of Committees not be perswaded thereunto, untill of late yeares, when Trade was overlaid by the Dutch, and Shame, and the urgent pressures of Mr. *Smithwick*, and others, upon my information of the trade of *India*, began to look more narrowly into their improvident waies, and neglect of trade, did inforce them thereunto. Having thus far inlarged m discourse, on the want of stock in *India*, ill managing of that little sent out, with an overcharge of Shipping, without imployment for them: I will proceed to that of *Persia*.

The trade from Port to Port, is that which made the Portugall, & now the Dutch, to thrive.

I am now come to discourse of that, no less rich than profitable trade for Silk of *Persia*, wherein I must ingenuously confess I was in a Labyrinth of admiration and wonderment, when I considered the many inconveniences and mischiefs, which the ruine of this trade hath brought upon that of the *East Indies* in particular, and the Common-wealth in generall: had it fallen alone, and perisht upon its own ruines, it had been a most heavy loss to this Nation: but to be the means and the cause of the loss of all the *Mollucca* Islands, and with them the best of the trade of *India*, *China* and *Japon*, to the unspeakable prejudice of the Adventurers in the several Joynt Stocks, is worthy due consideration.

The trade for Silk of *Persia*, cause of the loss of the *Mollucca* Islands, and all the best trades of *India*, China and Japon.

For the *East India* Action, strengthened with that great and powerfull means, as was the second Joynt Stock, was able (if wisely managed) to have carryed all the best of the *Mollucca* Islands, and other trades in *India*, *China*, and *Japon*, in despight of all the force the Portugals or Dutch could have set in opposition, had it not met with many evil disposed people of their own Society, bound by Oath and publique Trust to advance that Action, to the utmost of their power and best endeavours.

The second Joint Stock was able to have carried all the trade of *India* against Portugall and Dut. if rightly managed.

Such

Such were the Portugall Merchants, who, that they might have the furniſhing of *England*, with all ſorts of Spices, Indico, and other *India* Commodities, as heretofore did rather deſire the Portugall might hold that Trade to themſelves, as in former times.

The Portugal Merchants enemies to our Company trading for *India*.

Such alſo were the Merchant Adventurers, who (beſides many of them more intereſt in the Dutch Action, than the Engliſh) rather deſired the Dutch ſhould injoy the whole trade of *India*, than the Engliſh or Portugals, that ſo they might have Spices, and other *India* Commodities, wherein to make returns in a more profitable way, than by exchange, as they do, to loſs.

So alſo were the Dutch Merchants more intereſſed in the Dutch Action than in ours.

Yet were both theſe of little or no conſideration (ſetting apart that generall diſlike, that the State ſhould have any power or command in their Plantations) in reſpect of the Turkey Merchants, who would that neither the Portugals, Dutch, nor Engliſh, might injoy thoſe ſo rich trades of *India*, &c. much leſs that of the Silk of *Perſia*, that they onely might ſupply *England*, and other parts, with all thoſe fore-mentioned Commodities from *Alexandria*, eſpecially with the Silk of *Perſia*, from *Alleppo*, *Smyrna*, and other Ports of *Turkey*.

The Company unwilling to plant themſelves in *India*, becauſe the State would place Governors and Commanders therein, as in other Plantations.

Nor did theſe reſt here onely, for they ſeeing that if the trade of *India* did proſper, and go on in a thriving way, that Stock, in few years, would be able to bring all the Silk of *Perſia*, by way of *India*; rather than which, the whole trade of *India*, with all thereunto belonging, muſt be loſt, and that great Joynt Stock conſumed in a moſt improvident way of trade, as before related, that ſo they might (as they did) diſcourage and weary out all the Nobility, Gentry, Widdowes and Orphans, intereſſed therein, to ſell off their Adventures at half their value to themſelves, as I ſaid before.

Their feare of bringing the Silk of *Perſia* by way of *India*, was the onely cauſe of the loſs of the trade of *India*.

And the better to carry on this deſign, for ruining the trade of *India*, and Stock, they ſtrengthen themſelves with Governours, Deputies, and moſt of Committees of their own Society, of *Turkey* Merchants, that upon all occaſions they might over-rule all oppoſition, as they did that moſt noble and brave propoſition of Sir *Robert Sherley*, for ſetling

To which end they ſtrengthen themſelves with the greater number of Committees of their company, the better to over-rule all at their pleaſure.

the ſtaple of that rich Commodity of ſilke in *England*; A thing ſo much deſired of the King of *Perſia*, to divert the great Revenue, the Grand Senior (his mortall enemy) made by the Cuſtomes, &c. of the ſaid Silk, in hopes whereof, and in conſideration of the aid the Engliſh gave him againſt the Portugals, in ſurpriſing the Iſland, and City of *Ormus*, he granted to the Nation thoſe many and great Priviledges, ſuch as the Nation injoyes in no part of the World beſides: All which they have ſo neglected, with that ſo commodious Contract made with the King of *Perſia*, that in a manner, both Trade and Priviledges are of little value or conſideration at this day, in reſpect of what they might have been, if rightly managed.

The great priviledges the K. of *Perſia* granted the Engliſh almoſt loſt to the Nation.

Be pleaſed here alſo to obſerve the moſt unjuſt and diſhoneſt carriage of their buſineſſe, in oppoſition to the ſaid Sir *Robert Sherley*, ſo notoriouſly contrary to the true intereſt of the *Eaſt India* Action, that nothing was, or could be propoſed as more advantagious to the ſaid Company, than was that of ſetling the Staple of the Silk of *Perſia* in *England*, yet did that over-ruling power of *Turkey* Merchants, not onely procure an Ambaſſadour from *Perſia* into *England*, but ſo prevailed with the late King to ſend another from hence with the ſaid Sir *Robert Sherley*, into *Perſia*, at the great and vaſt charge of the *Eaſt India* Company, which did properly belong to the *Turkey* Company, whoſe intereſt it really was, and ſo far from prejudice to the *Eaſt India* Company, as nothing could be more advantagious to them, nor more honourable to the State and Common-wealth of *England*, than would that Staple of Silk have been, if rightly managed to its beſt advantage, as I ſhall make appear in my following diſcourſe.

They oppoſe Sir *R. Sherley's* Propoſitions for ſetling the Staple of ſilk in *England*, in prejudice of the Company and Common-wealth.

The charge whereof did properly belong to the *Turkey* Company, and not to that of *Eaſt India*.

Having in ſome meaſure ſhewed your Highneſſe the evil affection of ſeverall Committees in that Government, but eſpecially of that of the Turkey Merchants; I will briefly lay down the manner of the ſaid Companies complying with that Contract made with the ſaid King of *Perſia*, in the beſt of times, by the yearly Stock ſent thither from *England*, during my abode in *India*, not at all, or very little, inlarged ſince,

ſince, except one yeare, in Tinne, acommodity of leaſt expence, lay therefore many yeares before it was quite ſpent; Hereby any judicious man, may eaſily perceive their Good affection to that Trade, which done, I will ſhew your Highnes how commodious, rich, and profitable that Trade would have bin to that company in particular, and yet may be to the whole Common-wealth in generall, if rightly ſetled and managed to its beſt advantage, *viz.*

	Li.	
In Anno 1624. *was ſent to* Perſia, *Stock*,	6225	Stock ſent into Perſia in ſixe yeares of my time very little increaſed ſince.
In Anno 1625. *was ſent in Money and Goods*	3445	
In Anno 16.6. *in Goods and Moneys*	39265	
In Anno 1627. *in Goods and Moneys*	4077	
In Anno 1628. *in Goods and Moneys*	6040.	
In Anno 1629. *Nothing*.		
In ſix years was ſent in Stock	59412.	

Here the Annuall Inveſtments for *Perſia* from *England*, in ſix yeares, (one year excepted) was ſcarce ſufficient to maintain the great charge and expence, in that high Port their Factors lived at, which conſidered, there will appear little Stock remaining to be inveſted in Silk: And this if your Highneſſe pleaſe to obſerve, in the beſt of times, when Silk was worth from four Nobles to thirty Shillings a pound, at which prices, there had been gained at leaſt three and a half for one, which would have advanced their Stock very much beyond their deſires; which, had our Company imbraced in any reaſonable manner, if not to the full, as they might have done with that great Stock then in being, two years imployment of 300 thouſand pounds in the manner, I ſhall by and by lay down, would ſo far have inlarged that Stock, as ſhould not onely have been able to bring all that Silk into *England*, have made this City the Staple of that Commodity for all *Europe*, but have carried all, or the greater part of the trade of *India*, *China* and *Japon*, to the exceeding great advance

Scarce enough to maintain their Factors expence on ſhore.

300000l. Stock would have brought all the Silk of *Perſia* into *England* every yeare.

of this Action, and inriching of this Common-wealth and Nation, the wilfull neglect and loſs whereof, if duly weighed, may render the Managers of that Action extreamly blamable, and worthy heavy reproofs from the higher Powers, unto whoſe Wiſdome, and better Judgement, I will leave them,

The Company blame-worthy for neglecting that ſo rich trade for Silk of *Perſia*.

And proceed to the buſineſs it ſelf, and ſhew your Highneſs how that Trade might have bin followed in a moſt brave and flouriſhing way, as heretofore, often intimated to ſome of the principall Actors themſelves; but they had alwayes deaf ears to all that was propounded unto them at any time, that had relation to that Trade for Silk of *Perſia*, though themſelves had the ſeverall Contracts made with the ſaid King, on whom they laid the blame of not complying with them, at all the meetings of the Adventurers, at generall Courts, when indeed the blame was their own, as may appear by their yearly ſupplies, ſent out as before in the infancy of that Trade, and beſt of times, and the Contract our people made with the ſaid King; firſt in *Anno* 1622. and renewed again in 1627. as followeth, *viz.*

The Contract with the K. of *Perſia*. 1622.

A Contract with the King of Perſia.

That what quantity of Engliſh Goods the Engliſh ſhould import his Dominions, accompanied with one fourth part treaſure, the ſaid King was to take them at the prices following, *viz.*

Renewed in 1627. the prices of Engliſh Cloath, as alſo of Silke.

Broad Cloath about 11 l. price, of 36. yards long, at 38. Shahees, the Coved or Engliſh yard, which is 12s. 8d. the yard, the Shahee being 4d. Engliſh.

Broad Perpetuanies of 23. yards long, at 15. Shahees, or 5s. the yard.

Devon-ſhire Kerſies of 30. yards long, at 18. Shahees, or 6s. Engliſh the yard.

Tynne at 70. Shahees the Maundſhaw of 8l. Engliſh, and in lieu thereof, the ſaid K. was to deliver Silk at 48. Tomans the load, every Toman is 3l. 6s. 8d. Engliſh, and every load contains 72. Maundſhaws, of 8 l. Engliſh, ſo as 72. Maundſhaws of 8 l. makes 576l. of 16. ounces, or 384 l. of 24. ounces,

ounces; and 48. Tomans, of 31. 6s. 8d. makes 160l. ſterling, ſo as to buy 1000. load of Silke at 160l. *per* load, three fourth part Goods, and one fourth part Treaſure, I have eſtimated thus,

English goods to be ſent into Perſia, with one fourth part Treaſure, for 100. thouſand pound, to buy 1000. load of Silke.

	li.	*s.*	*d.*
3000. Broad-Cloaths, about 11l. price, and 36. yards long, amounts to	33000.	00.	00.
3000. Kerſies of 13. yards long, at 40 ſh. a piece	6000.	00.	00.
3000. Perpetuanies of 23. yards long, at 3l. a piece	9000.	00.	00.
2000. Quintals of Tinne, at 5l. the hundred of 112l.	10000.	00.	00.
168000. Rialls of Eight, at 4 s 4 d. *per* Riall	36400.	00.	00.
The whole Cargazone of Goods and Money to be ſent out is	94400.	00.	00.
Whereunto adde for Cuſtomes, and other Charges at home	5600.	00.	00.
In all amounts to	100000.	00	00

All which delivered into the Kings Ware-houſe, at the priſes agreed on, *viz.*

	li.	*s.*	*d.*
3000. Broad-Cloaths of 36. Coveds long, at 38. Shahees *per* Coved, or yard, and the Shahee at 4d. Eng. amounts to	68400.	00.	00.
3000. Kerſies of 13. yards, or Coveds long, at 18. Shahees *per* Coved	11700.	00.	00.
3000. Perpetuanies of 23. yards long, at 15. Shahees, *per* Coved	17250.	00.	00.
2000. Quintalls of Tinne, of 112l. is 224000 l. or 28000. Mand. ſhawes of 8 l. Engliſh, or 70. Shahees or Groats *per* Maund, amounts to	32666.	13.	4.
	168000.		

168000. Ryalls of Eeight, at 5s. *per* Ryall, amounts to	42000. 00. 00.
Goods and Moneys to be delivered into the Kings Ware-houſe	172016. 13. 04.
In returne whereof the King was to deliver 1000. load of Silke, of 72. Maundſhaws, at 48. Tomans, or 160l. ſtarling, *per* load of Silke, is	160000. 00. 00.
And there will remaine towards Charges there	12016. 13. 04.
Beſides Freight and Cuſtomes to and from *Perſia*, which may be	4983. 06. 08.
In all towards charges there in the Countrey	17000. 00. 00.
Which 1000. load or 2000. great bales of ſilke, weighing here 384l. at 20s. a pound, a moderate price, maketh	384000. 00. 00.
From which deduct 100000l. Goods and Moneyes ſent out	100000. 00. 00.
And there had been gained by the Adventurers the ſumme of	284000. 00. 00.

284000 l. gained towards Freight, &c. in 24 yeares, and after in 13 Moneths forever, if Stocks ſent out, and trade continued.

A faire recompence towards Freight, Cuſtome and other Charges here at home, upon ſo rich and ſtaple a Commodity, and all this to be performed in 27. or 28. Moneths, for the firſt voyage, and afterwards in 12. or 13. Moneths at moſt, ſending out ſtock every yeare.

But if the ſtock be at any time hereafter, able to ſend out, or otherwiſe to furniſh this trade of *Perſia*, with Engliſh goods, Spices & other *India* Commodities, to the value of 300. thouſand pounds every year, with one quarter part Money, as I ſaid before, it will bring 3000. loade, or 6000 great bales of ſilke, which is the proportion conceived to be brought them every yeare into *Turkey*, and would make here (beſides Grogeran, yarne, Gauls, Anniſeeds, Carpets, Goat Skins ready dreſt in Colours, and other Commodities which our Company would

Commodities out of Perſia, neglected by the Company.

would never looke after) at leaſt ten hundred thouſand pounds ſtarling, at 20ſh. a pound, a moderate price, from which deduct 300. thouſand pound to be firſt ſent out, and there will remaine 700. thouſand pound gaines towards Freight, &c. Charges at home. And ſo every yeare after the two firſt yeares, and a quarter, or thereabouts. And by this meanes have made *England* the Staple and Magazine of all *Europe*, for that Commodity, which was the reall intention of the King of *Perſia*, and the brave and noble deſigne of Mr. *Robert Sherley*; however ſhamefully oppoſed by our *East India* Company, utterly againſt the true intereſt of that Action, and to the extream prejudice of the Adventurers in particular, and the whole Nation in generall: A State-Action will be therefore the beſt, moſt honourable, profitable, and ſafe way of trade for this Common-wealth, and not by Joynt Stocks governed as hitherto, neither yet by an open and free trade, as is that of *Turkey*, eſpecially if governed by *Turkey* Merchants (as this hath been) utter enemies to this trade for Silk of *Perſia*, and conſequently to the whole trade of *India*, &c.

A State-action the moſt honourable and profitable way of trade.

It may be here objected, that the trade of *India*, *Perſia*, &c. if followed with a full ſtock, would carry out a great deale of treaſure, and impoveriſh the Land of money: againſt which our State did wiſely provide heretofore, by obliging the ſaid Company, to bring in as much (if not more) than they did yearely tranſport, which, for ſome yeares, was duly obſerved, and may again, by this means, bring in greater quantities by the proceed of Silk onely; beſides, what other *India* Commodities do produce from *Spaine*, *France*, *Italy*, and other parts, from whence all the Treaſure, which elſe would come for *England*, is now carried for *Turkey* to buy Silk of *Perſia*, which if brought directly from thence, by way of *India*, would not onely furniſh the great expence of the Manufacture of Silk in this Land, but be a means to draw all that treaſure (which is now carried into *Turkey* by other Nations, to buy Silk of *Perſia*) into our own Country, to the great enriching thereof, eſpecially in the increaſe of Treaſure in your Highneſs's Exchecquer, beyond any means whatſoever.

ver. If your Highneſſe can obtaine from the King of *Perſia* to renew the Contract for all his Silk, as formerly.

Silk of *Perſia* bought in *Turkey* with ready Money, which elſe would have been brought home.

For, all that Silk the Merchant bringeth now from *Turkey*, is bought with ready money, at 14 s. the pound, or more, whereas it doth not coſt in *Perſia*, 8 s. at moſt, ready mony; our Cloath, and other Commodities, are ſold in *Perſia* for above 100 l. *per* 100 profit, Tinne almoſt three for one; in *Perſia* we pay no Cuſtomes, which are ten in the hundred inwards, and as much outwards, never had Avenues or Mulcts laid on the Nation, whereas in *Turkey*, our Cloth, and other Commodities, ſeldome, or never, yeild 30. *per* 100 profit; pay heavy and great cuſtomes in and out, and have many Avenues put upon them every-yeare, in one place or other; our Ships alſo may make their Voyage in as ſhort a time as uſually from *Scandaroon*, after the firſt two yeares and a quarter, with much leſs danger of Pirats or other accidents, whereunto the other are incident.

Our Ships make as ſhort a Voyage for *Perſia*, as doe others from *Scandaroon*, after the firſt Voyage

Spices ſent into *India* and *Perſia* would have yeilded 8. or 10. for one, profit.

But had our Company (as I ſaid before) when they had one third part of the Spices, ſent a reaſonable proportion into ſeverall parts of *India* and *Perſia* every yeare, it would have yeilded there eight, tenne, and more, for one, which would have raiſed the ſtock to ſuch a value, as would have brought a large proportion of Silk from *Perſia*, which again would have yeilded two one halfe for one, at the rate of 20 s. the pound, an indifferent and moderate price, and a very faire recompence for one yeares time ſpent in *India*: but our Company, governed by *Turkey* Merchants, would never be perſwaded to follow that trade from Port to Port in *India*, though never ſo profitable, fearing that their Stock would grow ſo rich and powerfull, as to be able to bring all, or the greateſt part of the ſilk of *Perſia*, by way of *India*, to their particular prejudice, whereby it too plainly appeares that private intereſt is the ruine of all publique Actions.

Unto which our Company would never hearken, nor heare of trade from Port to Port in *India*.

Here falls in an Objection, which one of the prime managers of that trade, not long ſince, made to me, when in diſcourſe I complained of the Companies neglect of that trade for

for silk of *Persia*, of so great profit and consequence, as I did then make appear to him, though he would not seem to apprehend it; answered me, if that trade were so profitable as you say, why do not the Dutch fall into it, who carry not onely English Cloth, as we do, but even Spices, and other *India* Commodities also, yet do not invest the proceed thereof in Silk, which, if it did yeild so much profit as you say, they would not have so long neglected it.

Object: why the Dutch doe not buy silk of *Persia*, in return of spices and other Commodities.

Unto this I have in Answer two Reasons: First, that the Dutch made much more benefit by the Treasure they carried freely out of *Persia* into the *Molluccа* Islands, and *China*, to buy Spices, and Silk, and other Commodities for *Japon*, than the silk of *Persia* would have made at home in *Holland*; which he granted for good: A second reason was, that I had heard some Dutch in *India* (as I believe he had done the like) say that their Company had agreed with some of our Grandees, that if they, the said Dutch Company would forbeare the bringing of silk from *Persia* into *Europe*, that might hinder their trade for it into *Turkey*, they would under-hand let fall all their complaints of the *Amboyna* Massacre, and other wrongs offered our people in *India*, or at least so slightly prosecute the same, as it should never come to any issue, as it hath not untill some few weeks past: unto this he very angerly replyed (for it went to the quick;) these are but suggestions of those that have beene in *India*, and would faine possesse the General ty of Adventurers, of greater matters than can be expected, and so in passion break off our discourse, though in his own Conscience he knew it to be a parent truth.

Answered, that they make more profit of treasure they carry thence for *China* than they carry silk for *Holland*. Again, some of our Committees had made a private Contract with the Dutch, not to bring the silk of *Persia* into *Europe*. To which end it may be supposed, they neglected the receipt of their Customes in *Persia*.

Here also your Highness may be pleased to observe, that in the same Moneth of *Feb.* and yeare 1622. when our people aided the King of *Persia* in the taking of *Ormus* from the Portugals, the Dutch executed their so inhumane butchery on our people in *Amboyna*, and the yeare following fell upon the trade of *Persia*, where they had never been before; which later did more trouble the over-ruling Grandees of our Company, than the losse of all the Spice-trade; yea, and of that of all *India*, which they have now brought

The Dutch falling into the trade of *Persia*, troubled our Company more than the losse of the Spice-trade.

by a long and lingring Conſumption, even to its laſt gaſp, and muſt ſodainly expire, if your Highneſſe do not take it into your owne protection, and make it a State-action, by giving it new breath of life, and by Stock and Countenance revive its decaying ſpirits, now out of all hopes of recovery by Joynt Stocks of Adventurers; ſo much diſheartened by the wilfull Neglects and wrongfull abuſes, improvident Courſes of the former Managers of their Eſtates, that none but Mad-men or Fooles will put themſelves upon the like againe, unleſſe better regulated in its government, or laid open and free for all men that have a mind to trade into thoſe parts.

Which now languiſh for want of ſtock to keep up the Action.

None but mad-men or fooles will venture upon Joynt Stocks any more.

Much more I could ſay, as to the evill managing of that action, to the great hindrance of the particular Adventurers, and the whole Nation in generall; As alſo their great neglects of thoſe rich trades of *China* and *Iapon*, ſuch they have been heretofore to the Portugalls, and now to the Dutch, as one *Iacob Mathews*, a Dutchman, a few yeeres ſince, upon his going for *Holland*, and thence Commander of a Fleet for *India*, did tell me in diſcourſe about the trade of *China* and *Japon*, that their Ships did bring thence every yeare 70 or 80 tunnes of Gold, which according to their computation, is 7. or 800 thouſand pounds *Sterl.* a year: I have alſo heard ſome Dutch (ſome yeares ſince in *India*) ſay, that they did then ſend to *Japon* every yeare ten or twelve thouſand Broadcloaths; if ſo many ſo long ſince, ſurely at this time many more: All which hath beene long ſince intimated to our Company, as moſt profitable trades (if rightly followed) yet would they never hearken thereunto, or any thing that tended to the advance of that Stock, leſt growing rich, ſhould fall upon the trade of Silk; by which means they not onely kept that Commodity to themſelves, but cunningly traded into *India* for no more than themſelves could take off in ſupply of their owne trades into the *Levant* Seas and other places, at long time, and wrongfully rebates to the great hinderance of the Adventurers, ſo as if they loſt a hundred pound a yeare a man, with the Adventurers in the generall Stock, they gained thouſands by buying their owne Commodities (as I ſaid before.)

The trade of *China* and *Japon* neglected, have been very profitable to the Portugall and Dutch ever ſince.

But our Comp. would trade for no more than themſelves could take off in ſupply of their trade into the *Levant* Seas, and elſe where.

And

And when I call to minde the often boaſtings of *Peter Vanderbrook*, Commander of the Dutch in *Surrat*, that their Company had chains of Gold that would reach from *Amſterdam* to *London*; I rather believe they have over-bribed the Managers of that Action here below, than thoſe Lords above, ſo much complained of to the Generality; had they had a minde to improve that trade to its beſt advantage, they had ſtock enough (beſides the juſtneſſe of their Cauſe) to have vyed ſtakes with the Dutch, eſpecially here at home, where they could finde meanes ſufficient to maintain an Arbitrary power, to abuſe and wrong their ſervants, or any man that laboured the good of that Action; ſo alſo could they find means to bribe, and keep Mr. *Smithwick* from a faire Hearing when he complained of their diſhoneſt Proceedings: in theſe caſes, and the like, they ſpared not the generall purſe; But to deale with the Dutch, in a buſineſſe of ſo great concernment, they were over-ſparing, as glad they had ſo good an excuſe, as to fling the blame upon the King and Lords of his privy Council, in all general Courts, which, together with their ſervants private trade in *India*, was alwaies the burden of their complaints to the general Adventurers (when as ſome of themſelves had greater Adventures in private, than in the general Stock;) with ſuch falſe ſuggeſtions as theſe did they abuſe the honeſt minded Adventurers, who ſimply believed them to be as honeſt, as rich, untill woful experience told them the contrary.

The Dutch ſuſpected to have over-bribed the Committee below,

Which hindred their Complaints above.

On whom they flung all the blame in generalCourts.

For can it be imagined, that ſo grave and wiſe men as they were in their own way ſhould (like little children from whom if you take one of their play-games will fling all the reſt away) altogether decline that agreement of 1622. with the Dutch to have one third part of the Spice, upon the *Molucca* Iſlands, paying ⅓ part of the charge and coſt, becauſe the ſaid Dutch had over-reacht them in the contract, and over-bribed them at Court, that they had not the ſatisfaction they required, or but eaſily purſued, or was that a ſufficient reaſon becauſe the late Kings and Lords (for ſome reaſon of State then moving thereunto) did not preſently repair them for the many injuries and great loſſes they had ſuſtained,

They wilfully loſe one third part of the Spices, which they might have kept.

ned, that therefore they ſhould abandon that agreement for Spices, which had they continued as they ought in Policy or common reaſon to have done, this company had not only proſpered and flouriſhed themſelves, but had ſo hindered the Dutches deſigns, as they had never riſen to that height of inſolency they are now at.

Adde hereunto the long ſufferance of the Dutches injurious proceedings which hath made them ſo inſolent and peremptory in *India*, that they dared before theſe times give Lawes to our people in thoſe Seas, yea, and exact Duties and Cuſtomes in our paſſage thorough the Straights of *Mollucca*, never yet paid by the Engliſh to any Nation; in requitall whereof, your Highneſſe may as well exact a Toll or cuſtome of all the Dutch-ſhips that paſſe through the Narrow Seas, to pay a certaine cuſtome for their ſhips, and goods, with much more of equity and right, and but juſtly pay them in their owne kinde, who ſpare us in nothing, whereunto they can pretend any the leaſt ſhew of cuſtome, how unjuſt ſoever.

The Companies wilfull neglect of the Spice-trade into *India*, it ſelf made manifeſt.

But before I paſſe any further, be pleaſed to obſerve the wilful weakneſſe (or rather neglect) of our Company, when they had the one third of all the Spices of the *Mollucca* Iſlands (as I ſaid before) notwithſtanding they had been many, and oftentimes ſolicited by their ſervants in *Surrat* and *Muſlapatan*, to ſend a large proportion of thoſe ſpices into thoſe Northern parts of *India*, *Perſia*, &c. where they would have yeilded as much money, or more, than in *England*, which again reinveſted in Indicoe and other Commodities, would, after one yeares forbearance in *India*, have yeilded here at leaſt three for one, and have excuſed the ſending out 100 thouſand pounds a year, ſometimes in treaſure; yet they would never be perſwaded thereunto, as appeares by the following eſtimate.

100 *thouſand pounds of Maces at* 8 d. per *pound amounts to*	3333.	06.	08	I ſold of theſe Commodities at the ſaid prices my ſelf in *Surrat*, in *Ap.* 1617.
100 *thouſand pounds of Nutmegs at* 4 d. per *pound is*	1666.	13.	04	
100 *thouſand pounds of Cloves at* 9 d. per *pound amounts to*	3750.	00.	00	
300 *thouſand pounds of Spices bought in the* Molluccaes *amounts to*	8750.	00.	00	
Which 300 *thouſand pounds of Spices, if ſold in* India, *would have yeilded*				
100 *thouſand pound of Maces at* 6 s. *the l.*	30000.	00.	00.	
100 *thouſand pounds of Nutm. at* 5 s. *the l.*	25000.	00.	00	
100 *thouſand pounds of Cloves at* 7 s. *the l.*	35000.	00.	00	
300 *thouſand pounds of Spices ſold in* India *for*	90000.	00.	00	

Which 90 thouſand pound, reinveſted in Indico, Callicoes, &c. would have made in *England* at leaſt three for one, which is 270 thouſand pounds, from which take 8750 l. their firſt price in the *Molucca* Iſlands, there remains 261250 l gains towards Charge, Fraight, Cuſtome, and one yeares forbearance &c. in *India*.

A faire recompence, if wiſely apprehended, yet would our Company never put the ſame in practice, which to ſome men may ſeem a ſtrange myſtery. But when your Highneſs ſhall conſider, that that Court of Committees are the ſole buyers and ſellers of the Companies Commodities at their owne prices, and long time on rebate, and the benefit they make of the Impoſt they receive back at home, beſides their gaine abroad, will ſoon judge them to have been more intentive on their own private profit, than the generall good of the Adventures, though bound by oath and conſcience to act for the good of their Truſtees.

For the managers of this action, being Aldermen and rich men over-ruling all at their owne pleaſure, and to their own ends, being both Buyers and Sellers of their owne Commodities, did ſo combine together, as to have all theſe Spices brought

The Committees ingroſſe all thoſe Spices to their own private ends.

brought home, that ſo they might buy them up at their own prizes, and long time of payment of five ſixe Moneths, to rebate at five eight moneths, to ſupply their own trades, into the Levant Seas and elſewhere, by which Rebates and Impoſts received back, they gained 48 one third, *per* 100. at leaſt, before ever the Commodities went out of *England*, beſides what they gained abroad.

The *Muſcovy* trade and ſtock ruined by the *Turkey* Merchants, being Governors thereof.

It was heretofore obſerved, that ſo ſoon as the Muſcovy Company (which had raiſed (in Queen *Elizabeths* time) a great joynt Stock, began to look into the trade for Silk of *Perſia*, brought out of the *Caſpian* Sea, and down the River *Volga*; the *Turkey* Merchants cunningly made themſelves chief rulers of that Company, and ſo handled the buſineſſe, that in a few yeares, they not onely wrought a ſtop of that trade of Silk, by the River *Volga*, but even the ruine of the whole Stock, by their improvident way of trade, and over-great and unneceſſary charges, both abroad and at home, yet hath that trade, ſince the diſſolution of that joynt Stock, been followed by particular men, managing their owne Eſtates, thrived and proſpered, before the late difference between the two States; and ſo may this trade of *India*, &c. if laid open, and free for particular men, to trade upon their owne Stocks, managed by Agents or Conſuls (as is that of the *Turkes* and *Muſcovie* trade) prove very profitable and rich to this Common-wealth, unleſſe it ſhall ſeem good to your Highneſſe to make it a State action, as that which is moſt likely to be moſt honourable, profitable, and advantagious to this Nation, and Common-wealth, being rightly managed, by a new and better way of Regulation, and Government, than heretofore hath been practiſed at home.

The Committees work the ruine of *India* trade on purpoſe to buy off diſhearted peoples adventures at half their value.

But to leave the reſetling of theſe trades to the wiſdome of your Highneſſe and Councell of State, I ſhall humbly preſent unto your Highneſſe ſome other diſhoneſt proceedings, of thoſe Grandees, and managers of this action; who of purpoſe to undervalue the ſame, and diſhearten the Nobility, Gentry, Widdows and Orphans, and other Adventurers, not able to ride out of their Stocks any longer, ſo much, as to ſell of their Adventures, as they did ſome hundreds of thouſand pounds,

at

at 45. and 50. *per cent.* losse to themselves; and to this end, they imploy Mr. *Thomas Smithwick*, and others then Brokers upon the Exchange; But the said *Smithwicke*, understanding their designes and purposes, did serve himselfe and friends also by buying many Adventures of the Nobility, Gentry, &c. in hopes that being now become Adventurers, they might become also Committees, and have an eye over the managing of that action, in a better and more profitable way, than heretofore, and which indeed he did labour with much earnestnesse and complaints, both to the late King, and Lords of his privy Councell, but all in vaine, for they having the Generall purse, at command, and a Lord Keeper fitting their owne humour, spared not as I said before freely to bribe at Court, to stifle, and suppresse all complaints, and in the end, so ordered the businesse, as he, and others were ruined and undone in the pursuit thereof.

Besides this designe of buying up of Adventures at under values, a most unjust and dishoneſt course, and breach of Oath and trust, they had a farther intention, which was, that having by this meanes, got all, or the greater part of the Stock into a few of their owne, and confederates hands; they would then presse his Majesty and Lords, in a more earnest and importunate way then hertofore, to conclude the difference with the Dutch, and so gaine that composition also to their owne advantage; all which will appeare by their owne accompts and papers, if duly examined.

And gaine the Composition with the Dutch, to themselves, a most dishoneſt breach of trust.

As to the trades of *China* and *Japon*, I can say little to the particular Commodities either carryed thither, or brought thence, more than in the Generall. I am ascertained the *Portugalls* heretofore, and the Dutch now have, and doe make extraordinary profit, first between *India*, and *China*, but especially between *China* and *Japon*, and thence back to *China*, and thence again into *India*; and if the Dutch themselves do not vainly boast, they do carry many thousands of Broad-cloaths into *China* and *Japon*: it is likely we also might have made use of those so rich trades, had the managers of that Action heretofore been willing to advance that trade to its best of profit.

China and Japon have been to the Portugals, and Dutch very rich Trades.

All which, notwithstanding those so rich trades of *India*, &c. are no way to be esteemed the worst, because the managers thereof have not made them so profitable to this Commonwealth, as they have been to the Portugall heretofore, and are now to the Dutch, and may yet be unto us, if well regulated under a State-protection hereafter, as the other have been, and are to this day.

Having thus presented to your Highnesse, the evil affection, wilfull miscarriages, and improvident courses, to the ruining, if not utter suppressing of these so rich and profitable trades of *India*, *Persia*, *Arabia*, *China* and *Japon*, practised by that Court of Committees, who have had the managing thereof these many yeaers; I shall humbly leave these to your Highness's and Council of States better judgements, for the future regulating thereof, in a more profitable way than hitherto, either by making it a State-action, as the best, and most assured way of benefit and honour to the Nation, or by laying it open and free for all men, that have a minde and meanes to prosecute those Trades, being regulated, and ordered, as are the Turkey and Muscovy Trades, wherein every man is Master of his owne goods, both abroad and at home, aad hath the ordering and managing thereof at his pleasure, and not tyed up to the many inconveniences of Joynt Stocks, and the dishoneſt ends of some particular over-ruling Committees, whose private Interest, and surreptitious wayes of Buying and Selling their owne goods, to themselves, break through all Oaths and breach of Trust, even to the ruine of the Adventurers stock, though to their owne particular profit enough advantagious; experience having told us, that joynt Stocks (as I said before) are but the worst of Monopolies, and meer Cheats, both to the State, and Adventurers, and of all others, this of the *East Indies* the greatest.

The best way to make the Trade of India profitable to this Nation, is, to make it State-action.

But if your Highnesse can renew the former Contracts made with the King of *Persia*, 1622. and 1627. and enlarge that Trade, to the bringing all, or the greater part of the Silke of *Persia*, by way of *India*, and compell the Dutch to pay the one halfe of their Customes to your Highnesse, I dare

dare be bold, as will many others that have been in *India*, to lay down a courſe and way of Trade, that one Million of Stock and Shipping, to be ſent out in three years, ſhall returne its firſt principall, with one million of pounds advance, before the end of two years & a half, or three at moſt, & then every yeare after, one million of pounds, all charges borne; which Trade alone, in few yeares will increaſe your Highneſſe Exchequer, and the Stock of the Nation, to ſuch a large proportion, as will enable it to carry all Trades, and what elſe before them, in deſpight of all oppoſition.

Spice Iſlands, and the Contract renewed with the King of Perſia, for Silke, will make a rich trade.

I could ſay much more, in aggravation of the many and horrid injuries the Nation have received from the Dutch, but much more of the heavy loſſes, and wrongfull abuſes, which ſome of that Court of Committees have occaſioned; who over-ruling the more honeſt party by multiplicity of voices, and carrying all things to their owne ends, as profeſt enemies to that Trade of *India*, which ſo long as managed by ſuch, ſhall never thrive, nor be worthy the name of an *Eaſt India* Trade; ſuch as the Portugalls heretofore, and now the Dutch make of it, witneſſe the large returnes theſe latter have made thence every yeare, of value at leaſt 11. or 1200. thouſand pounds, beſides their large Stock remaining in *India*, and their many and rich Plantations they have there, to be valued at many Millions of pounds, all which they have obtained by the managers of our Stocks wilfull neglect, as much unwilling our State ſhould have any inſight, command, or intereſt in any of their Plantations; as not willing the action it ſelfe ſhoud thrive, and grow rich, for the reaſons laid down in my foregoing diſcourſe, which I hope will ſatisfie your Highneſſe and Councel of State, as to the reality of the things therein propoſed, together with the neceſſity of making it a State action, which will be the beſt, moſt ſafe, and profitableſt way, for the honour and welfare of the Nation, being ſtrengthned by your Highneſſe Countenance and protection, will put ſuch terrour into all people, both farre and neere, as they will not dare to moleſt, or trouble our juſt and lawfull proceedings, much leſſe offer any reall wrong or injuries to the Nation as heretofore. When

A joynt ſtock by Turkey Merchants managed, never thrive.

protection was wanting to the Company, againſt the barbarous inhumanity of our falſe friends; as for the Portugale, a declared enemy, we were able to right our ſelves on all occaſions, had our Company ſought to plant themſelves on the *Molucca* and *Banda* Iſlands, as they ought to have done in the firſt place, as did the Dutch, and then to have beaten their way for Trade, into the North parts of *India*. The maine (if not wilfull) errour of our Company, in the Infancy of that Trade, ſo had we been Maſters of all thoſe forementioned rich Trades, to the great advancement of this Common-wealth, and Nation, which now may ſeem irrevocably loſt, to the great ſhame and diſhonour of this Common-wealth.

To conclude, thoſe rich Trades of *India*, *Perſia*, *Arabia*, *China*, and *Japon*, did never appeare in their true luſtre and ſplendor, ſo much as in the time the Portugals had the ſole Command of thoſe trades in their owne hands, before either we or the Dutch had made any diſcovery thereof, when they had every yeare (if no Ships miſcarryed) at leaſt two Millions of pounds returned home on regiſter, which paid cuſtomes to the King at high rates, beſides Pearles, Diamonds, and other pretious ſtones of great value, which came unregiſtred, and paid no Cuſtomes. Of all which, the Dutch have endeavoured to make themſelves Maſters, and had accompliſhed, had not the Engliſh interpoſed a pedling trade (for other I cannot call it) whom they durſt not totally oppreſſe and beat out of thoſe Seas, however laboured by all the meanes they could invent, and the more upon our Companies neglect of Trade, which gave them the advantage of making them ſo rich, and powerfull, as to dare to conteſt with your Highneſſe and State here at home, in hopes to have ſwallowed up the whole Nation in a Conqueſt, and ſo have made themſelves the abſoluteſt Commanders by Sea, that ever yet the world knew; and ſo have brought into ſubjection, not onely the Eaſt and Weſt *Indies*, but even all other Trades throughout the whole world; but being beaten into better behaviour by your Highneſſe power by Sea, it is hoped your Highneſſe may in time worke the ſame for our Nation, being vigilant and carefull

full, to keep thoſe people under hatches, that they riſe not a-gaine to be able to hinder your Highneſſes proceedings to that purpoſe; the true intereſt of this Nation being at this time to encreaſe its Trade, the onely meanes of making a Nation rich, and powerfull, and able to give Lawes by Sea to all the world, as being ſo well ſeated, and fortified by Nature in the Seas, that having a commanding Navy as your Highneſſe hath, and may have, able to ſuppreſſe all other neighbouring Nations forces by Sea, before they grow over-powerfull, and able to give another encounter to yours, by combining together to its ruine. By other meanes (except from Heaven) it is impoſſible the world can offend us, as not able to bring an Army into our Land, but by wooden Horſes, which are, and muſt be our chiefeſt care to maintaine in their full forces; and able, if not to deſtroy all others, yet to defend the Nation it ſelfe in ſafety.

FINIS.